

## Focus on election- '91

## Tribal refugees

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Chairman of the Rangamati district Gaotam Dewan said that they would launch movement if the council was dissolved.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Mr. Fakhrudin told The Daily Star that the problem of Chittagong Hill Tracts should be resolved politically and the political leaders should play a responsible role regarding the matter. He said that the prime duty of the political leaders should be concentrated on drawing the tribal people into mainstream politics so that they could take part in nation building task. He said that after the election of local governments in CHTs the situation had improved a lot and the tribals were feeling safe to return from India.

Indian side claim that there are about 55 thousand refugees in six camps at Tripura and Mizoram in India. But since the local government election a total of about 22,000 refugees have so far returned. Khagrachari district Chairman Samiran Dewan said that his council was ready to receive any number of refugees who would be proved as genuine Bangladeshis by the local headmen (through whom the rajas used to collect taxes).

Administration source said, in a week from January 26, 21 Chakma and 11 Tipra families comprising 104 members have so far returned.

The Shantibahini which foster insurgency has not yet given up its demand for regional autonomy, which is not possible under the present Constitution. The government went for enactment of the Local Government Council bill in compliance with the demands of the tribal leaders other than the Shantibahini's. Mr. Upendra who headed a liaison committee of the tribals also agreed to the government arrangement to set up local

government but later he dissociated himself from the process and sided with the insurgents who are now using him as their main spokesman. Mr. Upendra is reported to have been campaigning in favour of a particular political party of Bangladesh in the refugee camps in India.

Hill Tracts came to know that there were about seven thousand voters among Tribal refugees in India.

The Indian daily also reported that with the changed political situation in Bangladesh the refugees were eager to return to their country. The leaders of the refugees have also let Chakma insurgents know their mind, the report added.

The local administration source said they were ready to receive the refugees and rehabilitate them as per standing arrangement under the Local Government Parishads.

But the leaders of the Local

10 hurt as poll camps ransacked in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 5: At least 10 persons were injured and 13 election camps were ransacked while 15 boat symbols were set ablaze following sporadic incidents of violence centering round election campaigns last night in the port city of Chittagong.

A press release issued by city Awami League said the incidents had occurred at Steel Mills gate, Agrabad and Lal Khan Bazar areas that triggered protests. One Anwar Hossain was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He was identified as BNP activist. With bullet injuries Police said none was arrested so far, police said.

The Awami League leaders blamed BNP workers for the acts of violence.

Government Council who were elected on January 25, 1989 were not willing to accept anything pushed by the tribal students. The students recently demanded scrapping of Local Government Council Bill.

Chairman of the Khagrachari district Samiran Dewan said that the local government sowed the seeds of solution to the problem and no question should be raised to dissolve the council or repeal the bill. He said that the council was ready to accept all refugees who were sheltered in India.

BNP-AL clash at Jhenidah: 10 injured

JHENIDAH, Feb 5: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between supporters of BNP and Awami League at Chararbil under Saikupa upazila, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, the clash ensued when workers of the two parties started chanting provocative slogans and derogatory remarks against each other from two separate election meetings. The two meetings were being held at stone throwing distance.

Two persons injured badly — Baechu and Matiar Rahman — were admitted to Saikupa hospital.

5-Party to repeal discriminatory systems

BARISAL, Feb 5: The Five-Party leader and the Bangladesh Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon today said if Five-Party was elected to power they would repeal all national discriminatory systems on the basis of minority, national identity and equal rights of religious minority, reports BSS.

## No party barred from contest: Shahabuddin

A 17-member delegation of teachers, syndicate members, provosts and student leaders of Dhaka University led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Moazzamul Haque today called on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat here on Tuesday, reports BSS.

They demanded immediate recovery of illegal arms from the Dhaka University campus for restoration of a proper academic atmosphere.

They also said, the country should be completely free of illegal arms for the parliamentary polls to be free and fair.

The members of the delegation included, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Wakil Ahmed, Proctor Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury, DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon and other APSU leaders.

They said illegal arms should be recovered also for ensuring peace and progress of the country. They demanded that the supply chain of such arms should be unearthed and those involved in it immediately apprehended and put on trial.

The student leaders ple-

dged their full cooperation to the police in this regard.

The Acting President told the delegation that this interim government had already initiated a drive to mop up illegal arms and would welcome cooperation from all quarters for its success.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said his government was totally committed to holding free and fair elections.

The Acting President said trial of the accused persons would follow the completion of investigation and submission of charge sheets.

He said his interim government was neutral for all sections of the people.

The Acting President said the world would witness that a free and fair election was going to be held this time in Bangladesh. No party is barred from participation in it, he added.

He said security forces comprising armed police and ansars, or BDR along with police or ansars, would be deployed in each of the country's 24200 polling centres to ensure peace and order during the election.

## Jatiya Party

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ing polls. He said that the release of Ershad and his ministers was essential to ensure neutral elections.

He also called upon the JP workers to strengthen the party under its acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

**BNP reaction**  
Nazir Ahmed, press secretary of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, in a statement condemned the terrorist acts by the processionists demanding release of ex-president Ershad.

He said that the elements created a reign of terror at Tophkhana, Gulistan, Tikatuli and Motijheel commercial areas by damaging vehicles and creating panic among the public.

They attacked press vehicles and tore posters of different political parties, he said.

Press secretary of the BNP chief urged the interim government to take stern action against the terrorists.

## 17,000 passengers stranded on ferries

ARICHA, Feb 5: Some 17,000 passengers were stranded on the Jamuna for 11 hours as ferries lost routes amid dense fog Monday night, officials said, reports UNB.

BIWTC sources said ferry and launch services on the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Dauladla routes resumed after the foggy weather was over after 10 am Tuesday.

They said routes were blanketed with fog after 11 Monday night forcing ferries anchored at midstream and also at ferry ghats.

## Hasina

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problems of all classes and professions through open discussions in the Parliament.

She called upon the people to vote for 'boat', the election symbol of Awami League.

She said some known elements being afraid of the 'imminent victory of Awami League' was creating terror to mar the elections.

## Lithuania

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vote "a plebiscite on the future of the Lithuanian state," news reports said. "A group of 19 groups signed a statement calling on all residents to declare for an independent Lithuania," the state news agency Tass said Monday.

## Reception to officials banned

The government has prohibited civil servants from attending functions or receptions arranged in their honour, official sources said on Tuesday, reports UNB.

A notification on the restriction has been served by the Establishment Ministry to high officials of all government offices down to the district level.

Government officials are frequently found attending as chief or special guests different functions arranged in their honour, breaching clause 7 (1) of the government servants' conduct rule, the notice said.

The clause states, "No government servant shall encourage meetings to be held in his honour or presentation of addresses of which the purpose is to praise him or any entertainment to be held in his honour."

It directed the officials to strictly follow the conduct rule henceforth.

## Call to defeat associates of Ershad

CHANDPUR, Feb 5: Five-party convenor and chief of Bangladesh Samjatantrik Dal Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan called upon the people to defeat the associates of the autocrat and the communal forces, reports BSS.

He said whether we would be able to uphold the victory achieved by the people would depend on the result of the parliament election.

He said the Five-Party would continue its struggle inside and outside the parliament in the interest of achieving the main objectives of the anti-autocracy movement.

He urged the government to reduce the prices of agricultural inputs by 50 per cent and ensure fair price of the cash crops including jute, tobacco, and betel leaf.

The Five-Party leader was addressing separate public meetings at Nayarhat and Rayer Bazar in Chandpur district.

Central BSD leader Abdullah Sarkar also addressed the meetings.

## Zia's killing

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to go half-fed or unfed during its rule.

Begum Zia said BNP, if voted to power, will try former President Ershad and his 'black listed' associates for their crimes.

The BNP chief who arrived here Monday evening on a two-day electioneering tour of Chittagong and Feni visited the Mazar of Amanat Shah(R) in the morning. She then went to the first grave of late President Ziaur Rahman at Rangunia, offered Fatcha and addressed a public meeting. Then she addressed a series of rallies and wayside meetings at Rawjhat, Chandragona, Nowapara, Hathazari, Patikchari in Roazan before returning to Double Mooring.

She was scheduled to address a meeting at Hathazari at 2 pm but reached the venue six hours behind schedule. Tens of thousands of people gathered there from the morning and waited to listen to her address. Enthusiastic party workers and supporters cheered from two sides of the road as her car entered the city. The car was followed by a big procession. Begum Zia is contesting from Double Mooring (Chittagong-8) constituency.

Khaleda Zia said that if voted to power BNP would take all possible steps for the development of Chittagong, and transform it into an international airport.

She said her husband late President Zia, who was also the founder of BNP, had a deep love for Chittagong from where he had declared the independence of Bangladesh. Zia had also embraced his death in Chittagong and was first buried here, she told the audience in an emotion charged voice.

Begum Zia said BNP believed in democracy and had waged movement against the autocratic Ershad regime for nine years. It also believed in the politics of development, and would set up industries for solving the problem of unemployment.

Urging the people to vote for her party candidates she said BNP would reach the basic necessities of food and clothing to them.

While addressing a labour-mass rally at Chandragona she said BNP would allow free trade union rights if it was voted.

Begum Zia will address a public meeting at Mirrsharai today (Wednesday) morning on her way to Feni.

## The Midnight File

## Rwanda's cabinet reshuffled

NAIROBI, Feb 5: Rwanda's President has reshuffled his Cabinet as fighting against rebels continues, a report said Tuesday. Rwanda radio said President Juvénal Habyarimana announced the reshuffle at a ceremony Monday to swear in three new members of Parliament. The report said Habyarimana appointed six new ministers, reassigned two and abolished one ministry, but the broadcast gave no explanation for the changes, reports AP.

## Passengers foil plane hijack

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: The crew and passengers of an Indian jet overpowered a student who tried to hijack the flight by threatening to blow it up with a pomegranate and an orange he said were bombs, reports said Tuesday. The student threatened the crew of an Indian Airlines flight Monday from Calcutta to the city of Agartala with the two pieces of fruit wrapped in a scarf saying he was hijacking the plane, the United News of India (UNI) said, reports AFP.

## Greek military plane missing

ATHENS, Feb 5: A Greek military transport plane with 59 people on board disappeared from radar screens Tuesday while attempting to land in bad weather, the Greek Air Force said. The plane, a C-130 Hercules, was flying from a military airport in Elefsina, south of the capital, to the military airport of Nea Anchialos outside the central port city of Volos, reports AP.

## 20 air passengers rescued

JAKARTA, Feb 5: Twenty passengers and crew members were rescued Tuesday, six days after their plane made an emergency landing on a jungle slope in North Sulawesi, an airline spokesman said. One passenger died after the landing last Wednesday that left the twin-engine, 24-seat Cessna Cassa-212 perched partly on trees, said spokesman M. Djubaedi of the state-run Merpati Nusantara Airlines, reports AP.

## Japanese drug group declares "war"

TOKYO, Feb 5: A group calling itself 'Cocaine Connection La Red Ball' has declared "war" against investigators working to stop the smuggling of cocaine into Japan, police said Tuesday. The declaration came in 16 letters, each containing four grams (0.14 ounces) of cocaine, valued at 360,000 yen (2,748 dollars) in street sales, said a police official speaking on condition of anonymity, reports AP.

## Allied raids

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Allied warplanes bombed Baghdad and Saddam Hussein's hometown late Monday and early Tuesday, shaking residents from their beds and sending columns of fire and smoke into the air.

Powerful blasts ripped through Baghdad as warplanes and missiles struck the Iraqi capital.

Witnesses living on the outskirts of the city reported two large explosions.

One witness, who refused to be identified, said he saw a pink flash in the sky. "A second later I heard the explosion," he added.

The second explosion was heard five minutes later at what locals said was apparently a military site.

Under security and military

regulations, the site could not be reported.

Others in Baghdad said explosions echoed across the capital well after midnight. Some said at least four missiles were fired into the city.

Allied bombing of Baghdad in recent days hit Iraq's radio and television building, an official said here today.

Warplanes from the US-led anti Iraqi coalition have also struck the central bank building as well as the Justice Ministry and a bridge in the capital, the source added.

An Iraqi military spokesman said Tuesday there had been 373 air raids on the country on Monday and four Allied aircraft were shot down.

The war criminal Bush and his allies, in addition to war merchants who were afraid of Iraq's might and strength and Iraq's future, start air raiding and shelling residential areas in a savage way that history did not know before, "Iraqi radio said.

Iraq has halted fuel oil supplies to the public at the height of the winter.

Baghdad radio today quoted a statement by the Ministry of Oil as saying the measure was effective from February 4 and "until further notice."

It gave no further details on the measure that would largely affect heating oil supplies and follows a ban on sale of petrol two weeks ago, this was later eased to allow the sale of strictly limited quantities of petrol.

US-led allies have pounded Iraq's oil refineries and storage facilities relentlessly since the Gulf war started on January 17.

**Soviet move**  
Meanwhile, a senior Soviet government official was to leave today for Teheran, the recent hub of diplomatic efforts for a negotiated solution to the Gulf war.

The offer by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to mediate in the conflict met with little enthusiasm from the United States.

A White House spokesman said: "Our purpose is to get Iraq out of Kuwait. We're engaged in a military conflict to do that. That's where our focus is and we don't expect that to change."

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov was to have talks in Teheran with "parties concerned" by the Gulf war, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Moscow.

The spokesman described the Iranian mediation offer, which was also welcomed by Mr. Perez De Cuellar, as "very positive."

**Let the traitors remain sleepless**

Iraq on Tuesday called for terrorist attacks on Allied targets worldwide, in vengeance for air attacks that have wrecked missile launchers and hampered its elite troops.

Radio Baghdad on Tuesday exhorted: "Do not spare any interest of any of the countries taking part in the aggression against your brethren in Iraq, against an Arab and Islamic nation," the radio said in broadcasts monitored in Cyprus. "Let the traitors and cowards remain sleepless."



Ekushey Book Fair opened in Bangla Academy premises Tuesday.

— Star Photo

## Moscow, Islamabad dropped from new US foreign aid list

WASHINGTON, Feb 5: US

President George Bush's 1992 foreign aid budget seeks to reward Gulf war allies and to boost assistance to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe, State Department officials said on Monday, reports Reuters.

The budget seeks 14.47 billion dollars in new foreign aid funding from Congress, compared to 13.56 billion dollars approved in 1991.

The total budget required in 1.45 trillion-dollar with a 281-billion dollar deficit driven by war and recession.

Despite major cuts in some areas of overall US spending, the status quo would be maintained for Israel and Egypt, two key American allies in the Middle East and in the war effort and the largest recipients of US foreign aid.

They would receive three billion and 2.3 dollars respectively.

The US has been grateful for Israel's decision so far not

to retaliate against Iraqi Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv and other areas, fearing Israeli involvement in the war could weaken the Arab and Western coalition amassed against Baghdad.

Bush has told Jewish leaders his budget-strapped government would have trouble responding to this request. But officials are asking Europe and Japan to try and help.

Robert Bauerlein, an aide to Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who briefed reporters on the foreign aid budget, said that Turkey would likely receive an increase. Aid requests for Turkey have run around 600 million dollars in recent years.

A budget document released by the State Department asserts that establishing a secure and stable Middle East is among the most critical challenges that we now face.

Accordingly, nearly three-fourths of security assistance resources (in the 1992 budget)

are devoted to the countries in the region either participating in Operation Desert Storm or profoundly affected by the crisis, such as Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Oman and Turkey, the document said.

Jordan received about 20 million dollars in US aid in 1991 and State Department officials said that figure is expected to remain about the same.

Bauerlein said the budget requests no aid for the Soviet Union and is likely to include no new aid for Pakistan, but would carry over whatever funds were held up in 1991 when Bush was unable to meet a congressional mandate to certify that Islamabad does not possess a nuclear device.

The 1992 request for Eastern and Central Europe is 470 million dollars, a 30-million-dollar or 8 per cent increase over 1991 that includes 70 million dollars for the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

## ADB team

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because of the developments in the Gulf. The programme will be funded by savings in the bank's existing lending operations and some more additional resources.

The sources could not give details about how much Bangladesh would seek from the ADB to meet the emergency needs in the backdrop of the Gulf war. Available indications suggested that the amount would be over 75 million US dollars.

Besides the special ADB team, two more ADB delegations are expected in Dhaka by next week to hold discussions with the government officials on the bank's existing lending programmes and new operations in the country.

The ADB is the largest source of multilateral assistance to Bangladesh. In 1989-90, the bank disbursed over 350 million dollars of aid from its concessional loan window, Asian Development Fund (ADF), to the country.

## Demonstration marks opening of Ekushey Book Fair

By Staff Correspondent

The opening of the traditional Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy was marked by demonstration against the Director General of the academy Mahmud Shah Qureshi.

The demonstrators did not allow Mr. Qureshi to preside over the opening function. He was later removed from the stage.

Writer Jahannara Imam was put on the stage to preside but she too was condemned by the students. At this she also stepped down and Mr. Mainul Hasan, Secretary of Bangla Academy preside over the function.

Later some students led by Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Literary Secretary Mr. Niamat Elahi, went to Mr. Qureshi's office and persuaded him to visit the fair.

Mr. Qureshi was removed from Bangla Academy last night.

Prof. Innas Ali speaking as chief guest at the function stressed the need for taking preparation to switching over to computer technology for storing knowledge.

This year's book fair is the biggest since its launching in 1968.

## Quraeshi relieved as DG of Bangla Academy

The government on Tuesday appointed Prof. Mohammad Harunur Rashid of the Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, as the

Director General of Bangla Academy, reports BSS.

The present DG Dr Mahmud Sah Quraeshi has been relieved of his responsibilities, an official handout said.

Kamal Lohani, a Director of Press Institute of Bangladesh, has been appointed the new Director General of Shilpakala Academy. The present DG of the academy Mahub Talukder, has been made OSD in the Ministry of Establishment.

The Director General of Bangladesh National Museum Dr Enamul Haq has been made OSD in the Ministry of Establishment, the handout said.

The Sammita Sangskritik Jote has hailed the government decision of removing "the associates of the autocratic Ershad regime in the cultural arena".

The Jote, in a press release, congratulated the Acting President

## Biman

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by IATA. But the domestic fare remained unchanged as it is fixed by the government.

Biman sources say the total losses in the domestic sector now stands over 40 percent which can be cut only by raising the passenger fare. However, the government is yet to take any decision in this regard.

The domestic fare of Biman was enhanced in July, 1989 by 40 percent.

## No assurance

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A.F. Hasan Arif that steps would be taken for speedy trial of a criminal case against the ex-President and that he was going to be shifted to the Central Jail soon.

The fact of the matter is that no such assurance was given by the Deputy Attorney General nor was any such statement necessary in connection with the disposal of an election matter. The judgement of the High Court Division itself shows that the said writ petition was withdrawn by the petitioner's lawyer. The order of the court is quoted below:-

"Heard the learned advocate for the petitioner, Dr Kamal Hussain, and A F Hasan Arif, Deputy Attorney General. In course of hearing Dr Kamal Hussain prayed for permission to withdraw the application. The prayer is allowed. Let this application be treated as withdrawn and disposed of."

"The government has taken serious objection to such untrue and motivated statement as reported in the press."

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